

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SY-04

SAB-01 SAM-01 SCCT-01 PPT-01 /061 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:AIC

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

NEA:HSAUNDERS

SCA:MR. SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 282220

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASC, PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: LOCAL TENSION RESULTS IN DETENTION OF US CITIZENS

REF: BEIRUT 15341

1. DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED OVER HARRASSMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS REPORTED REFTEL. WHILE WE APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S COMMENT THAT THEY ARE NOT TYPICAL OF DAY-TO-DAY TREATMENT OF AMERICAN CITIZENS WORKING IN AND VISITING LEBANON, BELIEVE THESE INCIDENTS ARE SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TO REQUIRE ACTION ON OUR PART.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD BRING INCIDENTS RELATED REFTEL TO ATTENTION OF SENIOR LEVEL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. SHOULD BE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THAT LEBANON HAS BEEN GOING THROUGH A PERIOD OF TENSION IN AFTERMATH OF RECENT ISRAELI RAIDS, USG HAS AN OBLIGATION TO ITS CITIZENS. ISSUANCE OF PUBLIC WARNING TO US CITIZENS TO AVOID TRAVEL TO
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LEBANON WOULD BE THE SORT OF STEP WE WOULD ROUTINELY TAKE

IN THIS CIRCUMSTANCE. WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID THIS IF
POSSIBLE, BOTH OUT OF CONCERN NOT TO HURT LEBANESE TOURISM
INDUSTRY AND NOT TO CREATE PUBLIC IMPRESSION OF INSTABILITY
IN LEBANON. HOWEVER, PUBLIC WARNING COULD BECOME NECESSARY
IF INCIDENTS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH HAVE OCCURRED RECENTLY CON-
TINUE. WE WANT TO ASK GOL'S ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER BE-
FORE IT BECOMES AN ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. BROWN

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